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### JAPAN'S POSITION AMONG WORLD

Course in Next Few Months to Decide Her Reputation in International Family-All Eyes Watching Government at Tokio.

(Copyright, 1918, by New York Evening

Washington, March 19. - Japan is ery much to the fore these days. Her foreign policies, her industrial development, her statesmen, her people, all are conspicuous on the world's stage of passing events. All people are audiences to what Japan may say; all nations are watching her performance. It is an opportunity among opportunities for Japan.

Her reputation in the international family to last for generations will be made in the next few months. Just as the little son may ask the father in after years: "What did you do in the great war?" so will the part of Japan in the present war be taken always as an index of her true character.

Small wonder that the statesmen of Japan are deliberating every more cautiously. Small wonder that the Japanese do not rush pell-mell into Siberia without previous consultation with their friends, the allies. Policies of "splendid isolation" have become obsolete. Every free nation's interests are bound with those of her sister

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Japan and America have lately developed additional reasons for close affiliation, Japan and England have publicly proclaimed their intimacies by the Anglo-Japanese agreement Clearly, then, outside of the German ring, what Japan thinks of America, what America thinks of Japan, and what the people of the British empire think of the Nipponese are the vital factors of the situation.

Must be Frank. Of all times we are living in a period that makes it necessary for the good of Japana as well as the good of America to talk plainly. In America, there is very little-all too little-in-formation about the character of the Japanese people and their purposes as a nation. In Japan there is all too lit-tle appreciation of how much the inadequate knowledge of our people has brought about a distinct suspicion of Japanese motives. Governments may easily understand each other and have complete faith in their respective promises and pronouncements public and private, but peoples are not as

easily convinced. Our government was in close touch with the Japanese government, but our people were not in touch with the Japanese people. There was none of that partnership of people which to characterize the relations between free countries. Our diplothing, a frank interchange of views by the newspapers and journals of all the countries on pending action, was not operative, as it should have been.

Round-about News.

The only news the American people got about Japan came by way of Tientsin and cities in China, from which points the dispatches were sent over cables not controlled by the Jap-That is one sure way to breed distrust and doubt. It is most unfordid not realize that the attitude of hesitation on the part of America was due in large part to the secrecy which attended the Japanese proposal itself.

German Propaganda.

German propaganda undoubtedly has been responsible for much of the doubt concerning Japan which has been spread throughout the United States, but whatever the cause, its result—the status of our public opinion today-must be carefully assessed and analyzed. Japan was able to obtain from the United States a clear conception of all the American people thought. The press here discussed with the utmost freedom the Japanese proposal to intervene in Siberia. There was no censorship, but, on the contrary, the most sincere and accurate reflection of how all classes of people felt. But American correspondents in Japan did not send us what the Jap-anese people thought.

United States Set Example.

But it will be remembered that when the United States seized Vera Cruz, and later, when Gen. Pershing was ordered into northern Mexico, very specific statements were made by our government outlining exactly our purposes. We renounced all intention to acquire any territory or to interfere with the sovereignty of the invaded territory. Not many months later, in these cases, we kept our promises. It is by a repetition of such generous acts that moral credit is

It is by following such a course that Japan not only will disarm her critics, but will win many friends in America and England. Mutual criticism would very helpful. There is the frankest kind of expression of opinion be-tween England and France and Amer-Recent events have emphasized ica. Recent events have emphasized how closely related are the industries of the United States and the enterprises of Japana.

"Must Give and Take."

Japan and the United States have been brought close together by the exigencles of war. The intimacy will continue to grow. Commercially it is inevitable that Japanese and American business men should become partners in the Pacific trade. Politically, there is less and less reason for conflict. The Lansing-Ishii agreement is reciprocity at its highest.

The same principles of give and take on both sides can be applied to a set-tlement of all pending questions. Japan has made commendable efforts to place her point of view before the American people through Japanese residents in this country. This can and should be supplemented by a greater freedom of action for the foreign correspondents stationed in

There is cause for congratulation indeed in the progress that has been made toward an understanding between the two countries. And because progress has been made, no effort should be omitted to develop even a closer friendship. The American people are gradually coming to realize why Japan and the United States need never be enemies; they ought to be helped to see why Japan and the Inited States should become intimate

### Building Up Our Lines

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### FORT OGLETHORPE GETS DANGEROUS ENEMY

(New York Tribune.)
Frederick W. S. Hiller, a member of one of the wealthlest banking families in Hanover, Germany, yesterday was ordered interned at Fort Oglethorpe for the duration of the war as a dangerous enemy alien. Hiller was first taken into custody the federal authorities at Lake

Placid in January. He was ordered to report every twenty-four hours at Plattsburg. Neglecting to do so he was sent to Ellis Island on Jan. 20, after he had been arrested in the home of a friend, Max Jacobs, of 339 East Eleventh street, Brooklyn. He had made the acquaintance of Jacobs in Plattsburg and suggested

that they take a trip to New York to gether and later go on a hunting trip in the Adirondacks. However, at the last minute Hiller, who was living under the alias of Dr. John Serrarri said that he could not leave for the to take his suit case to New with him and that he would foll a short time. Jacobs did this an turned the suit case over to the su orities when the man was arrested it were found gold crosses bear coat of arms of the crown prin

of Prussia. Arrested in Egypt.

At the time Hiller said that souvenirs while he was in Su The authorities said that it would been impossible for him to have Switzerland since the outbreak of

been in constant communication by the means of invisible ink with a cousin, John Ferrarez, who now resides in Switzerland.

About to Escape.

One message, written in the invis-ible ink, Mr. Wallace says, contained detailed information on how he could return to Germany via Switzerland. whipping him.

POSITION AMONG WORLD

POWERS HANGING IN BALANCE

The was at one time captured by the British in Egypt but escaped and made his way to San Francisco in the latter part of 1916. Since that time he has been living on the Pacific coast.

William Wallace, head of the New York enemy alien bureau, said that since Hiller's arrest agents of the government here have learned that he had been in constant communication by is August Goldgrabe, 43, a German, is August Goldgrabe, 43, a German, who said that he lived at 98 1-2 East First avenue. He described himself as a waiter.

Goldgrabe was arrested as the result of making seditious remarks in the presence of an Irishman, Patrick Crimmins, of 345 West Eighteenth street, which resulted in Crimmins

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## Sur-charge of 10% on Fire Insurance Now Applied to Tennessee

Because of the war taxes and other extra expenses due to the war. the fire insurance companies doing business in Tennessee have been compelled to add a sur-charge of 10 per cent. to their present rates, effective March 18, 1918. This charge is already effective, and has been for some time, in the Eastern and most of the Southern States, except Tennessee. and is now being applied generally throughout the country. This is necessary because none of these unusual war costs are covered by the schedules in use, and even the 10 per cent. increase will not offset all the extra expenses to which the companies are subjected because of war conditions. It is understood that the pu dished rates heretofore in effect are not to be changed, but that the 10 per cent. is to be added to the premium charge purely as a war effect measure, and that this extra charge will be removed just as soon as the war taxes and other abnormal costs are ended.

Fire insurance remains about the only commodity that has not increased in price since the war began, and the time has now arrived when, to protect the solvency of the compnaies, their duty to the public, the insurers and their stockholders, this measure must obtain if a sufficient premium volume is produced to pay losses and expenses. Insurers will fully appreciate the immediate need for increased income to fire insurance companies when it is recalled that the items listed below make up only a few of the many items of increased cost of doing business:

> The average increase in taxation under the latest war revenue measure will probably amount on premiums to ...... 6% Traveling expenses are increased for railroad and Pullman fares (to say nothing of materially Printed matter on all office and agency supplies have advanced in cost on an average ...........50% Clerical help has, like other labor, advanced in The cost of repairs to buildings damaged by fire has increased since this country entered the war

Due principally to the increased cost of repairing partial loss damages the companies paid out in 1917 nearly \$40,000,000.00 in excess of the amount paid in 1916, although in 1916 the losses were nearly \$70,000,-000.00 more than in 1915. This actual experience in losses incurred very clearly reflects the rapidly increased cost of replacements. Experience shows that about 95 per cent. of all losses are partial, and now that labor and materials cost all the way from 50 per cent. to 200 per cent. more than before the war this enormous increase in losses paid is easily understood. In addition to the increased cost of doing business is the very important item of incendiary losses through operations of enemy agents.

# Chattanooga Underwriters' Association

Chattanooga, Tenn. March 18, 1918.